ABSTRACT

A binding system in an imaging system includes an accumulator in which sheet material is accumulated in respective jobs to be bound. The binding system includes a binding assembly adapted and constructed to bind the sheet material together. A scoring member is connected to the binding assembly. The scoring member is adapted and constructed to form respective score patterns in sheet material received in the accumulator. The binding assembly can include a thermally low-mass heating element and a thermally high-mass cooling element. The scoring member can be connected for motion with respect to the binding assembly, for example, by forming at least one bore in the binding assembly, and at least one guide post extending from the scoring member and received for reciprocation in the at least one bore in the binding assembly. At least one resilient biasing member, for example, a coil spring surrounding the guide post, can be disposed between the scoring member and the binding assembly. The scoring member can be constructed as an elongate wedge-shaped bar, a bar having a serrated edge, or a generally linear series of pointed protrusions. The binding assembly can include a frame assembly having a first frame member mounted generally parallel to a second frame member. The heating element can be mounted on a lower surface of the frame assembly. The binding assembly can also include a cooling element having a generally parallelepipedal lower portion extending downwardly from a generally parallelepipedal upper portion. The lower portion of the cooling element can be mounted for reciprocal movement between the first and second frame members of the frame assembly. A method of binding sheet material is also set forth.